



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: March 28, 2019

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges

Authority:

Section 1 of 1989 Public Act 269 (PA 269) and Executive Orders 2009-45, 2009-54, 2011-1, and 2011-2 authorize the Department of Natural Resources to adopt generally accepted operation practices for sport shooting ranges.

Discussion and Background:

Sport Shooting Ranges, 1989 PA 269, an act to provide civil immunity to persons who operate or use certain sport shooting ranges, was amended by PA 250 of 1994. Public Act 250 is intended to protect the owners and operators of existing shooting ranges from nuisance suits based on noise emanating from the range. Under the terms of the law, an existing sport shooting range which is in compliance with any noise ordinances or laws which existed at the time the range was established, and which is operated according to generally accepted operation practices (GAOPs), are afforded this protection.

Once adopted, the GAOPs must be reviewed at least every five years. The DNR may review the practices in a shorter interval and make any adjustments it feels are required.

The last review of the GAOPs occurred in 2013 and was based upon the operating specifications outlined in the *National Rifle Association (NRA) Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning & Construction, 2012*. The 2013 Memo listed the Sections and Chapters of the *NRA Range Source Book* that established what is considered the current GAOPs.

Staff have recently contacted the National Rifle Association to inquire if a revision to the *2012 Range Source Book* has occurred or if a revision is planned. The NRA replied that the 2012 version is current, and they have no plans to update or revise the *Range Source Book*.

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Recommendation:

Based upon review of the 2012 edition of *The NRA Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning & Construction*, the following portions of the *Range Source Book* mean the “generally accepted operation practices:”

Section I, General Information

Chapter 1, General Information

- Article 1, Introduction
- Article 2, Planning Overview
- Article 3, Outdoor Ranges
- Article 4, Indoor Ranges

Chapter 2, Safety Plan

- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety Planning
- Article 3, General Administrative Regulations
- Article 4, General Range Commands

Chapter 5, Operations and Maintenance

- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Operations Management
- Article 3, Range Operations
- Article 4, Maintenance Management
- Article 5, Appendix

Chapter 6, Sound Abatement on Shooting Ranges

- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Definitions
- Article 3, Concepts and Methodology

Section II, Outdoor Ranges

Chapter 1, General Outdoor Range Information

- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety and Personal Health

Chapter 3, Outdoor Range Operation and Maintenance

- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Operations
- Article 3, Maintenance

Chapter 14, Outdoor Informal Training

Article 1, General

Article 2, Safety

Article 4, Operations and Maintenance

Chapter 16, Outdoor Archery

Article 2, Safety

Chapter 17, Outdoor Hunting Simulation

Article 2, Safety

Article 4, Equipment Operation and Maintenance

Section III, Indoor Ranges

Chapter 1, General Indoor Range Information

Article 2, General Indoor Information

Article 3, Safety

Chapter 3, Indoor Range Operations and Maintenance

Article 1, General

Article 2, Operations

For the purpose of 1989 PA 269, the remaining portions of *The NRA Range Source Book* are to be considered informational to the named Sections, Chapters and Articles. Because each shooting range is unique, and operation of the range is dependent upon its site, surrounding topography, adjoining land ownership, and shooting opportunities offered, not all ranges require identical operating environments or on-site structures. *The NRA Range Source Book* has been designed to provide guidance and direction to a broad variety of the sport/recreational shooting community. The information contained within the manual is advisory and should be considered guidelines rather than absolute requirements for safe and responsible range design and operation.


Staff recommends that the Director adopt the above GAOPs.

Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges

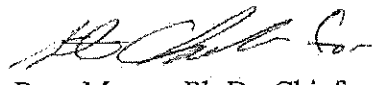
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Relevant divisions have contributed to the preparedness of this memorandum. This memorandum appeared on the department's April, 2019 calendar and is eligible for approval on April 11, 2019.

FOR


Kristin Phillips, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



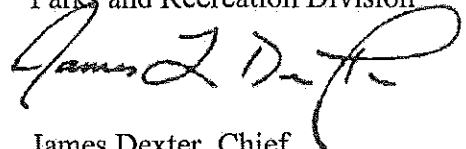
Deb Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division



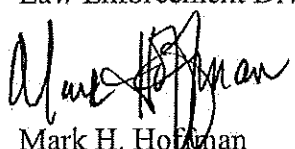
Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



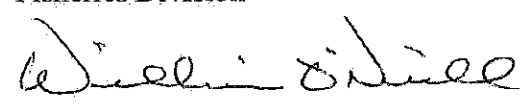
Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

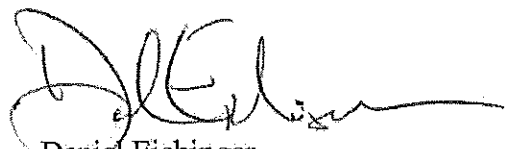


Mark H. Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer



William O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur.



Daniel Eichinger
Director